

OTHER NOTICES

Chesser, Eustace. *Unmarried Love: Sexual Wisdom for the Single.* London, 1965. Jarrolds. Pp. 160. Price 15s.

DR. CHESSEY'S VIEWS have been misrepresented in the past and no doubt will be so treated again in the future. To the careful sympathetic reader his practical advice and tolerant breadth of vision are crystal clear—nevertheless the titles of his books tend to be provocative and apparently needlessly so. The notorious case of the BMA's booklet *Getting Married* (1959) gave Dr. Chesser the publicity his work deserves, and yet a reputation that it does not. The book was withdrawn and one has a great deal of sympathy for two of the contributors (Dr. de Kok and Dr. Chesser himself) who thereupon felt constrained to resign from the BMA.

Dr. Chesser then published separately a book in expansion and clarification of his views and retained the forthright title of his article, *Is Chastity Out-moded?*

In some ways the book under review is a further stage in the development of the same theme, and once again the title could be misleading, particularly to those who would answer "No" to the first title question, and would condemn the subject or title of the present book.

It is clear, however, that the author is no thoughtless libertarian, and he gives a very fair exposition of opposing points of view, merely indicating gently where in his opinion the people concerned are wise to make their own decisions. His own attitude can be clearly indicated as unperturbed by hostile criticism, and aware that his answers to some controversial problems may be misconstrued.

This book deals with the sexual problems of the unmarried—a subject of importance, but probably not acceptable for discussion a few years ago. The author reasonably presents the facts as he sees them.

It is truism to say that the old order has broken down and that there no longer exists a universally accepted code of conduct—some regard this as a moral decline—others, in

increasing numbers, regard it as emancipation from a social morality no longer applicable.

A chapter headed "Youth as a scape-goat" gives the reader a chance for a do-it-yourself assessment of his own standards of judgement, since it gives twenty examples of behaviour to which one can award ten black marks—for instance "a gang of schoolboys break into a shop and steal cigarettes"—"a travelling salesman seduces a young girl by making her drunk"—"a bishop says nuclear war might sometimes be justified".

This chapter alone would confirm that the author has succeeded in his intention to help some to clarify their minds and obtain greater awareness of themselves unmarried; the complete book will help those who have problems of unmarried love to cope with those problems and help others to be tolerant.

The book is well presented and although it has a glossary it suffers from the lack of an index.

D. ROBERTSON-RITCHIE

Eglinton, J. Z. *Greek Love.* New York, 1964. Oliver Layton. Pp. 504. Price \$12.95.

THIS BOOK IS remarkable in that it contains a chapter by an eminent medical writer in which he states that he strongly disagrees with the major thesis. This is followed by a rebuttal by the author.

It is well produced and elegantly written; the argument is closely reasoned and most objections are answered in full—to the satisfaction of the author at any rate.

The theme is that in ancient Greece the social-sexual relationship between men and boys was an accepted method of educating the young, and of bringing men up to be good citizens; and that acceptance of this idea is badly needed to-day; the subject is discussed under the euphemism of "Greek love".

It is difficult to know how much acceptance of the proposition would be opposed by rationalization—and how much by its negation of the current sexual mores of the majority,

but it is unlikely that the author's views will be acceptable to most people.

There is a full glossary, an index of names and a comprehensive index. D. R.-R.

Ford, Clellan S. and Beach, Frank A. *Patterns of Sexual Behaviour*. Second edition. London, 1965. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Pp. vi+330. Price, cloth bound, 30s., University Paperback, 15s.

THIS BOOK WAS first published in 1962 and was then reviewed at some length in these pages (44, 166). The second edition is textually unaltered but its general appearance has been vastly improved by resetting, and the issue of a paperback at half the cost of the library edition will no doubt be a popular move. K. H.

Hutchinson, D. W. *Nucleotides and Coenzymes*. London, 1964. Methuen (New York, John Wiley). Pp. viii+136. Price 18s.

WITH ITS WELL organized text and 534 references, this addition to the series of Methuen's Monographs will appeal both to the student of nuclear biochemistry and the qualified layman: the former receives a concisely balanced introduction and the latter an easily read resumé of the subject uncluttered by overdosage of molecular formulae. G. C. R.

Langley, L. L. and Cheraskin, E. *Physiology of Man*. Third Edition. New York, 1965. Reinhold. London, Chapman and Hall. Pp. xii+658. Price 68s.

THE BOOK SETS out to provide a textbook of physiology "for the student with the minimal preparation in anatomy, mathematics, physics and chemistry". It easily succeeds in its aim. There is more material than is necessary for most biological subjects in schools but probably less detail than the pre-clinical medical student would need. For other post-school students it may be invaluable.

The emphasis throughout lies on the development and maintenance of the human body within a changing environment. The description and discussion constantly refer to the control

of processes and homeostatic mechanisms. In accordance with the aim of the book there is only the minimum necessary reference to microscopic structure.

The style is almost popular, but economical and very clear. The diagrams form an integral part of the text. Considerable use is made of flow sheets and schematic diagrams to illustrate and summarize the descriptions. Pictorial diagrams illustrating structures and such things as the foetal circulation or nervous pathways are plentiful. All the diagrams are clear and exceptionally well designed and executed.

As an apparatus of communication the book is excellent. K. W. WILKES

Whyte, Lancelot Law. *Internal Factors in Evolution*. London, 1965. Tavistock Publications. Pp. xxiii+81. Price 18s.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS nothing new in evolutionary theory. The author has set up a number of straw men which he proceeds to demolish. He defines two types of selection:

"Internal (or developmental) Selection

The internal selection of mutants at the molecular, chromosomal, and cellular levels, in accordance with their compatibility with the internal co-ordination of the organism. The restriction of the hypothetically possible directions of evolutionary change by internal organizational factors.

External (or Darwinian adaptive) Selection

A net reproductive differential of genetic variants caused by differences of adaptive fitness of competitive individuals. The further restriction by external factors of the avenues of evolutionary change permitted by internal selection."

He then proceeds to take page after page to show that all evolution cannot be accounted for by external selection as defined by him!

He has chosen to ignore the fact that both types of selection are Darwinian and that you cannot rigorously distinguish between them. What is internal selection by his definition in one environment may well be external in another. Moreover he fails to realize that all external selection is not concerned with "differences of adaptive fitness of competitive

OTHER NOTICES

individuals". Much selection, such as that for industrial melanism in some species of moths or for the sickle-cell trait in man may have nothing to do with competition between individuals and would work as effectively in an environment where competition between individuals was eliminated.

Not only does this book add nothing new to evolutionary theory, but it will confuse any reader who has not a sound knowledge of modern genetics. This view is supported by a summary of discussions and correspondence between the author and several biologists whose comments he quotes on page 56. Three of the quotations are as follows:

"If there is any internal selection, there is no

basic distinction between it and Darwinian selection."

"The idea is a commonplace; it is obvious to anyone aware that organisms are organized. It is not of any special interest."

"To a molecular biologist the idea is obvious. But why bother? The geneticists and evolutionary theorists must come round soon. The facts will speak for themselves."

The last statement when compared with the first two shows that the molecular biologist was misled into believing that the ideas although obvious are not known by population geneticists. It would have been better if this book had not been published.

P. M. SHEPPARD